





Welcome to issue 120 of The Newham Mag.

how to apply for a grant to set up your own community group (page 19) and see how Newham celebrated St George's Day (page 23).

There's also a feature on cricket (page 18) and

the usual news and what's on.

I hope you enjoy the magazine.



On the cover:

**Discover Newham's** award-winning parks.

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Look out for the next issue from 19 May

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By 2010, Newham will be a major business location and a place where people will choose to live and work



### In brief...

### **Chief executive retires**

Newham council chief executive Dave Burbage has announced his retirement after 27 years working in the borough.

A full council meeting will be held

on 14 May to discuss the interim arrangements which should see deputy chief executive Chris Wood taking over the reigns until a new



chief executive is appointed.

Dave, who had been chief executive for eight years, said: "After 27 years, eight as chief executive, I have decided it is the right time for me to retire. I have enjoyed 40 years working in local government and recently became a grandfather for the first time.

"The London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012 will bring Newham to the forefront of world attention. I think it is important that the borough has a chief executive that will take the council up to and beyond the Games.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my work at Newham and wish all council officers and elected members the very best for the future."

#### AGM on 17 May

The council's annual general meeting will be held in the main hall at Newham Town Hall, Barking Road, East Ham, on 17 May at 7pm. The public are welcome to attend.

### >>>

### Thousands parade for Vaisakhi

Deputy Mayor Councillor Christine Bowden wished thousands of worshippers a happy birthday when she launched the annual Nagar Kirtan procession in Manor Park.

It formed part of the Vaisakhi celebrations, which commemorate the birth of the Sikh nation.

The parade started and finished at the



Gurdwara Dasmesh Darbar temple in Rosebery Avenue and took in High Street North, Romford Road, Green Street, Plashet Grove and Shelly Avenue. Councillor Bowden said: "Vaisakhi is one of the most colourful events in the

Sikh calendar and I am delighted to be involved in the celebrations.

"The Sikh community in Newham has made a great contribution to the economic, cultural and political life of the borough. Vaisakhi demonstrates the enduring values of the Sikh community, including a respect for other religions and faiths which in Newham, with its diversity, we value very highly."

### Councillor takes Newham to Kerala for women's festival

Councillor Omana Gangadharan prayed for peace and prosperity for all Newham women when she took part in a huge women's festival in Kerala, India. Cllr Ganagharan, who will become Civic ambassador this month, joined close to a million women for the pongala festival of the Attukal Bhagavathy temple.



On Pongala day, the fragrance of incense, sandalwood and coconut oil mingle with the smoke from hundreds of thousands of open hearts as the women cook the pongala, a sweet porridge.

Cllr Gangaharan said: "I did this for the women of Newham, for peace and prosperity for everyone. Everyone wanted to talk to me about Newham and the Olympics coming here."

She said she would love to set up Newham's own pongala festival in the future.



# 

### Rolling out the red carpet

Older people are getting a taste of Hollywood through a specialist arts project.

Newham Council and the Whitechapel

Gallery have teamed up to make a film called Memories of Work, School and Play. It documents



the lives of 30 people aged between 60 and 91, who tell their stories and investigate music, dance, tastes and geography.

Doris Kensey, 87, said: "It's very exciting and it's really interesting to go back in time and find out about each other's backgrounds."

The film is a breakthrough collaboration between a council and a gallery with the aim being to combat the isolation that a lot of older people face and raise awareness of their needs.

It premiered at the Resource Centre for Older People, in Chargeable Lane, Plaistow, and is set to hit Stratford Picture House's big screen soon. It will be shown prior to the main feature.

### 🐎 🐎 Citizens' good deeds recognised with awards



Eight of Newham's good citizens received glowing accolades at the borough's Civic Awards ceremony last Saturday evening.

The Civic Awards salute people who work in the community

and whose deeds have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

It was the seventh year that Newham has had an honours scheme for local people with the winners nominated by local people.

This year's winners are Shoheb Akhtar, Katie Blake, Joan Boys, Sabha Dyer, Ann Henry, Ashuk Hussain, the Venerable Manala Makure and John Mercer.

Councillor Shillingford said: "A lot of people do great things in Newham and we are happy to salute those who selflessly carry out tasks for the good of others. We also thank the Newham Recorder for sponsoring the event."

### Wickedest of Cargoes exhibition opens

A free exhibition looking at slavery and Newham's contribution to the abolition of the British slave trade is now open.

Mayor Sir Robin Wales opened The Wickedest of Cargoes at the Old Town Hall, Stratford, where it is on until 25 May.

Newham Council designed it to mark 200 years since the introduction of the Abolition of Slavery Act, in March 1807, when it became illegal for any British subject to capture and transport slaves. Sir Robin said: "Although times have changed, slavery is still an issue in today's world. The Wickedest Of Cargoes not only celebrates the achievements of people who used to live in this area and helped fight to stop this inhumane practise, but reminds us that the battle is not yet won.

"It will be a very insightful and educational exhibition."

It is open on weekdays from 10am to 4pm. Entry is free.





# Get involved in your borough

"I encourage you to make the most of what Newham has to offer by getting together with your friends and neighbours."

Being one of the few elected Mayors, I am directly accountable to you. It's important that I'm open and accessible for any Newham resident. Following the summer recess, I've increased the times and places where you can meet me to discuss your concerns, issues and suggestions for the borough. To find out more visit my website at www. newham.gov.uk/mayor or call 020 8430 2107 to find out where I'll be.

The abnormally hot weather we have been having lately didn't sit well with the runners of the recent London Marathon, but for the rest of us mere mortals it's a good opportunity to get outside and into an activity – no matter how fit you are or feel.

Most homes in Newham are within ten minutes of one of the 22 parks and 45 open spaces that the council looks after. They offer many opportunities for people to get active and motivated. It's really easy to become involved in a club or activity or, with our help, start one of your own. We offer up to £2,012 in Go for It grants to people who would like to set up their own clubs and events. In our schools, parent, carers and staff can also make the most of the grants, as we offer £250 to assist in the setting up and running of school summer fetes.

Indoors, you can dance the days away with the council's tea dance classes

held every Monday and Wednesday throughout the borough. A qualified dance teacher will make sure that, even if you have two left feet, the classes will be fun and entertaining.

Life seems that much easier when it's warm and I encourage you to make the most of what Newham has to offer by getting together with your friends and neighbours. Community participation is a key to keeping our borough free from crime and anti-social behaviour. Over the next few months, keep your eye out for our many free events such as the Newham Show. Don't hesitate in getting involved in making our borough a great place to live.

Read more about Go for It grants on page 19. For more information about tea dances and other activities, call 020 8430 2000 or visit www.newham.gov.uk

NA

# The Lost Heroes

Residents whose relatives may have been missed off the East Ham war memorial are being encouraged to come forward following the recent discovery of a forgotten hero.

Last year Bryan Lewis, who until recently had only ever lived in East Ham, was researching the ways in which British people commemorated the bravery and sacrifice of the men from their communities who fought in World War I. In some old papers of his late mother's, he came across a very old photo of a young man in uniform. Mr Lewis was intrigued to find out more about the mystery man.

"I went through all the papers and photographs carefully and established that

he was the eldest of four brothers," he said. "We knew mum's three other brothers (our uncles), but neither our mother, nor anyone else, had ever mentioned the fourth

- Francis Stuart Watson."

Details from old electoral registers brought to light that Rifleman Francis Stuart Watson was born and bought up in East Ham. In early 1913 Francis enlisted in the 8th Battalion King Royals Rifle Corps and in letters home during wartime described himself as a "crack shot" and hoped to get a stripe. At the age of just 19, Rifleman Watson lost his life during WWI.

Mr Lewis and his wife went to East Ham to visit the war memorial in Central Park. assuming his uncle's name would be on there.

"To our surprise. Uncle Frank's name was not on the memorial and his service to his country had almost been completely forgotten," said Mr Lewis. "However we now hope that it will be possible to add his name to the

memorial, thus providing a permanent record."

To enable this to happen, Mr Lewis has provided the birth certificate and other relevant documents for his uncle to the East Ham and District branch of the Royal British Legion to verify his service history. The council and the legion now wish to know if there are any other

contact the East Ham and District branch of the Royal British Legion at easthamrbl@btinternet.com or write to East Ham and District RBL. 57 Melford Avenue. Barking IG11 9HS.



Rifleman Francis Stuart Watson, whose name should now be added











Richard House offers an experience for children that is positive and fun, and support at all levels for their families. As a respite and palliative (end-of-life) care nurse, Joanne Park creates these experiences every day.

"People expect certain things when they hear the word hospice, but it's not like that here. It's a friendly happy place"

"People expect certain things when they hear the word hospice, but it's not like that here," says Jo. "It's not dark with crying children. It's a friendly, happy place."

Children visiting the centre may come for a day, a week or longer depending on their circumstances and Richard House offers residential care for both children and their families.

"Looking after a disabled child can be exhausting, and letting a child or young person come and stay with us allows parents to do things such as spend time with their other children, or simply have a rest.

"It's not just about giving the parents a break though, it also gives the children time away from their parents. Normally a child who doesn't have a disability will stay overnight at grandma's, play at a neighbour's or go to school.

"It's especially true of teenagers who would go for sleepovers with their friends. The teenagers who come here can't necessarily do that so we have big sleepover weekends here when we invite all the teenage girls."

Sleepovers are just one of the activities on offer at Richard House. Children have access to a huge range of toys and games including wheelchair adapted outdoor play equipment. There is a newly created teenage room, complete with computer consoles and DVD library where teenage visitors can chill out away from parents, staff and younger children.

"We do whatever the children want," says Jo. "We go for a walk to the airport or the farm, or we go to London Zoo, the Royal Observatory or Lakeside.

"Shopping is a favourite for the girls of

course and we have a camcorder which we have made loads of movies on. We run special art weekends, sport weekends and dance weekends. We try and make it as much like home as possible, although the children do get away with more here, like staying up until 4am watching horror movies!"

Richard House offers palliative care for a child who is coming to the end of their life. The hospice can provide accommodation for the entire family, as well as close support and bereavement services.

"We have the luxury here of working one to one with a family, and so can give much more support than in a hospital," says Jo. "Parents don't necessarily want their child to die in hospital and may not feel comfortable going through it at home, so we offer an alternative.

"It's sad that children die but it does happen. We have a special room with a cold bed, so once a child has died they can remain there for as long as the family needs.

"We also offer a prayer room for all faiths."

In such an environment few people would find it easy to remain positive but Jo and her colleagues provide a continuous friendly service irrespective of medical or emotional difficulties.

"Working here makes you appreciate life and I really love my job," says Jo. "The children may know they are not going to live into adulthood but they don't let it affect them. They don't have the same

"Working here makes you appreciate life and I really love my job. The children don't have the same fears as adults and are so amazing"

fears as adults and are so amazing.

"It's a great place to work and we all pull together. It has its sad moments but the good things far outweigh the bad parts. Whenever I get a smile or a cuddle, I know why I do this."

Richard House relies on donations. www.richardhouse.org.uk
020 7511 0222

### In the second of our series on Newham's Green Flag parks, we take a look at what's on offer at Central Park, East Ham.

A short walk from East Ham town centre and easily accessible by public transport, Central Park boasts attractive flower beds, a wide variety of trees and shrubs, a children's play area, a bowling green and pavilion and tennis courts. There is also a war memorial dedicated to more than 1,600 residents who lost their lives in World War I. This park has retained many of its original features.

The land was bought in 1896 by East Ham Urban District Council to create a park in the centre of the growing town. It was opened on 5 July 1898 with a grand ceremony attended by more than 2,000 people. The land formed the grounds of Rancliffe House, an early 18th Century building which was finally demolished in 1908.

Over the years, many unusual and interesting trees have been planted here. A tree trail leaflet is available from libraries and local service centres.

### **Points of** interest

### War Memorial

The Memorial is 30 feet high and made of white Portland stone with bronze tablets recording the names of more than 1,600 men from East Ham who fell during World War I. It was unveiled on 10 July 1921. There are still services of remembrance there each year.

#### **Tennis courts**

Part of today's tennis court site used to be occupied by an open air swimming pool, that opened in 1901. Adults had to pay a penny and children a halfpenny and it was used by around 25,000 visitors a year. It was closed in 1914 for the duration of World War I then opened for a few years afterwards before finally closing in 1923.

### **Bowling Green**

This bowling green was opened in 1910. It originally had a thatched pavilion, but this burned down in 1939.

### Millers Well

In the eighteenth century the area now occupied by Rancliffe Road and Cheltenham Gardens was known as Millers Well Lane. There was a freshwater spring which people came from miles around to visit because the water from the well was thought to have medicinal properties and believed to be especially good for eye diseases. The Millers Well pub on Barking Road takes its name from this.

### **Drinking Fountain**

This was donated to the park by Colonel Ynyr Henry Burges in 1898. It is made of pink granite and was designed to be low enough for children to reach it.

### **Bandstand**

The original cast-iron bandstand was a classic Edwardian 'wedding cake' design. A new, more enclosed, bandstand was built in the 1930s. This was removed in 1972, but the circle of trees planted around it remains.

### What to do in Central Park, East Ham

- > The park café is open from this month until October.
- > Use of the tennis courts is free and on a first come, first served basis.
- > There is a tree trail where visitors to the park can learn about native trees. A tree trail leaflet can be picked up from the café, or sent via post (see contact details below to request one).
- > Newham Striders, a walking club, meets every Monday from 2-3pm and every Thursday from 1.30-2.30pm throughout the year. Meet them by the War Memorial near the entrance by the bus terminal. This group encourages people to be active by taking a walk in the park.
- > Central Park Bowls Club will be holding taster sessions every Wednesday between May and September from 5pm to 8pm. Just turn up and meet at the Radcliffe Road entrance gate and have a go.
- > The park will be the venue for the Town Show and Under the Stars this summer. Look out for further details.

### **Find out more**

To find out more about what's on, opening hours and activities, email yourparks **@newham.gov.uk**, call **020 8430 2000** or visit www.newham.gov.uk/parks





# WATCHING AND CARING, **NOT CURTAIN-TWITCHING**



### **Neighbourhood Watch in Newham** is calling on local residents to help make the borough's streets safer.

Newham's leading lady on the scheme wants to hear from members of the community who are interested in joining.

Mandalina Stepniewska, Neighbourhood Watch (NW) co-ordinator,

says: "We urgently need residents to join their local NW and we need to set up in new areas. We need people who are wholeheartedly committed to living in a safer environment."

She adds: "We want people to come forward who are prepared to help us in doing what is needed, in partnership with the police, to keep the streets of

Newham safe. Without the commitment and help of the community, NW cannot be effective."

PC Keith Jeffrey, NW police coordinator, says: "Anyone can join a watch and play a part in its achievements. A scheme can be made up of just a few houses in a street, the residents in a square or a whole estate."

### **Watching and caring – not snooping**

Neighbourhood Watch is about looking out for each other. Neighbours uniting means that dozens of eyes and ears are ready to pick up on anything happening in the neighbourhood that could cause worry or concern. It's not about being nosy or interfering, it's about being a good neighbour and caring about your community.

### A better quality of life

By working together, neighbours can also take action against things like vandalism. graffiti and poor lighting. Tackling local concerns will also help people feel less nervous about crime.

### **Neighbourhood Watch** is for everyone

Neighbourhood Watch is about bringing people closer together and involving them in local life. A stronger community spirit grows as people get to know each other and look out for one another.

### **Neighbourhood Watch means** working together

Neighbourhood Watch means no-one is alone. Your neighbours will look out for you, your family, your home and your street or estate, and you will do the same for them.

### CASE STUDY: ST GEORGE'S AND MONTPELIER EAST WATCHES

Two of Newham's 33 watches are in Boleyn Ward.

They were set up recently following a number of burglaries in the area.

In the first month, police saw a 63 per cent decrease in burglaries from the previous month.

Sergeant Adam Knight, who leads the Boleyn Safer Neighbourhoods Team, believes this is largely due to information received by NW members. He says: "We act as quickly as

we can when we receive information from NW members. We were recently informed about a vehicle believed to be dealing drugs. Safer Neighbourhoods officers spotted it while patrolling the streets and a search of the vehicle resulted in a significant amount of class A drugs being seized."

He added "Residents in these NW areas now feel safer and we are receiving fewer and fewer complaints regarding drug dealing and using."

### How does it work?

Members look out for anything suspicious or unusual, then report it to police. When you join a scheme, you are given advice about the sort of things to look out for.

Each scheme is run by a local co-ordinator, chosen by members of the scheme. They act as a link between them, the local police and council, other watches and community groups.

The Neighbourhood Watch sign is not only a warning to would-be-criminals, it is also the sign of a united community where people care for each other.

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT YOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM VIA www.newhampolice.co.uk IN AN EMERGENCY, ALWAYS DIAL 999





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## Anyone living in London in 1945 will probably remember what they were doing on 8 May.

It was the day when Winston Churchill made a radio broadcast from the Cabinet Room at 10 Downing Street announcing that Germany had surrendered and war in Europe was at an end.

Huge crowds, many dressed in red, white and blue, gathered outside Buckingham Palace in London to see the King, Queen and two princesses come out onto the balcony.

Earlier, tens of thousands of people had listened to the King's speech by loudspeaker in Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square.

It didn't mark the end of war for many servicemen and women or their families as fighting continued with Japan until its surrender later the same year.

For the people of London the end of the war meant not only the end of fighting but better living conditions and an end to food rationing. There was massive rebuilding to be done, much of which was around the East London docks which had been targeted by the Luftwaffe during the Blitz.

To celebrate VE Day, the Union Flag will be flying at Newham Town Hall on Barking Road throughout Tuesday 8 May.





### Mayor of Newham Sir Robin Wales has launched a no-nonsense scheme to challenge those who carry knives.

Though knife crime is not increasing in Newham, the deaths of two teenagers who went to a Beckton school have raised concerns.

The council, in conjunction with Newham Police, will carry out searches using metal detectors at public events in its parks during the summer including the Newham Show and the Under The Stars music events.

There will also be sporadic searches of people entering public buildings and amenities. Schools are also being encouraged to actively use their powers to screen and search pupils for weapons.

Sir Robin said: "We will be working with the police in carrying out searches at random locations and times. The detectors will be used as a deterrent to reinforce the message that if you consider carrying a weapon you will get caught.

"The vast majority of people do not

carry knives, but those that do seem to think they will keep them safe when in fact they could get used against them. We want to build a culture of safety - people should not feel the need to protect themselves - that is the job of the police and the council."

Officers from the police's Safer
Neighbourhoods Teams will be available
to help head teachers and other staff
carry out random knife searches on
pupils. Secondary schools will be
probably be visited at least once a term.

The council is also looking at setting up a dedicated hotline where pupils can

- completely anonymously - call or text details of others they suspect of carrying weapons. Investigations will follow if there are reasonable and lawful grounds for them.

Newham Police supports the council's stance. Borough Commander Detective Chief Superintendent Nick Bracken, said: "Though the overall level of knife crime has actually decreased, the recent incidents have raised concerns for children and parents about their safety. This that has prompted us to ensure we are working with the council as effectively as we can to improve feelings of safety."

### **OPERATION BROKEN BLADE**

Police and council Parks Constabulary officers recently carried out an operation in Newham parks and open spaces.

It featured high profile patrols to reassure the public and target gang culture. During Operation Broken Blade, officers dealt with anti-social behaviour, by-laws, crime and park-related issues. They took wand detectors to check for offensive weapons.

# HAVE YOUR SAY: A CASINO FOR NEWHAM?

In January, the London Borough of Newham was selected as one of eight possible locations for a large casino in Britain. Mayor of Newham Sir Robin Wales has asked us, the Advisory Commission on the Newham Casino, to consider both the benefits and the disadvantages of licensing a large casino in the borough, to help him decide whether a large casino is right for Newham.

## The work of the Advisory Commission on the Newham Casino

The Advisory Commission is an independent body set up to examine the case for and against having a large casino in the London Borough of Newham. To help us, we will gather evidence from residents, businesses, councillors, community and local interest groups as well as bodies such as the police, health trust and other key stakeholders. We will also look at academic research and the experience of casinos elsewhere.

### Members of the Advisory Commission on the Newham Casino

### **Sir Henry Brooke, Chair of the Advisory**

**Commission** – former Lord Justice of Appeal **Lord Victor Adebowale** – Chief Executive, Turning Point (social care organisation)

**Lady Stratford Sally Banks** – social care professional **Bill Galston** – former Chief Inspector of the Gaming Board for Great Britain

**Bernadette Marjoram** – Director of the British Urban Regeneration Association

**Lord Herman Ouseley** – former Executive Chairman, Commission for Racial Equality

**Professor Tony Travers** – Director, London School of Economics' London Group

### What is a large casino?

A large casino could provide a casino gaming area with roulette, blackjack and other permitted games. It may also provide facilities for playing bingo and betting. The maximum size of a large casino gaming area would be around half the size of a typical football pitch.

In addition, the casino must provide a substantial area for non-gaming activities. These could be shops, restaurants, bars, entertainment facilities such as a theatre or health club, or possibly even a hotel. All these extra facilities could be accessed without entering the casino gaming areas. The entertainment and non-gaming facilities must be available whenever the casino is open but are also likely to be available during non-gaming hours.

The casino would be required to provide significant measures to minimise the risk of problem gambling and to prevent access by people under 18 years old.

### Some potential benefits of a casino

Some of the potential advantages of a large casino you may want to consider are:

- The creation of jobs for people living in Newham
- > The potential to bring more money into the borough
- > The opportunity to fund community projects from taxes raised on the casino
- The creation of a new leisure and entertainment area in Newham

### Some potential disadvantages of a casino

Some of the potential disadvantages of a large casino you may want to consider are:

- Increased traffic congestion close to the casino
- > A potential increase in problem gambling
- > Increased noise and disruption at night
- > The potential negative impact on nearby businesses

### **Have Your Say**

The Advisory Commission will be holding two days of hearings on 6 and 28 June. We are inviting residents to give evidence to us and to allow us to ask questions. However, there may not be enough time for us to invite everyone who wants to submit evidence in person. This is why we are asking for evidence to be submitted in a written form in the first instance. This way, we will be able to take everyone's views into account.

Finding out the views of local people and other interested parties is important to us. We would like you to tell us what you think about locating a casino in Newham.

### This could include:

- > Your personal attitude to gambling
- Whether you would consider working at a casino or an associated leisure and entertainment complex

- > Whether a proportion of the profits from a casino should be invested in local communities in Newham
- > The type of casino complex you would like/not like to see (what facilities should be inside)
- Any other comments that you have about a casino in Newham

### **How to reply**

We have asked the Office for Public Management (OPM) to provide us with independent secretariat support. Please send your comments, along with your name, address and contact details to **Advisory Commission, FREEPOST, OPM, 252B Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8XG**. Please also let us know if you would like to submit verbal evidence. Or reply via email on commission@opm.co.uk

The closing date for submissions is 31 May.

Name:	Telephone No:
Address:	
Your comments here:	

You may wish to continue on a separate piece of paper. Don't forget to include your name, address, email address, telephone number and indicate whether you would like to present oral evidence.



# cricketfever

### New Zealand win schools cricket world cup

Despite their defeat by South Africa, England still reached the final of one cricket tournament - the Newham schools cricket world cup!

More than 70 Year 9 students from eight secondary schools gathered at Lister School, Plaistow, for Newham's first cricket tournament, arranged by the council.

England (represented by Langdon School, East Ham) were beaten in the final against New Zealand, represented by Lister School.

Mayor Sir Robin Wales watched the event and even tried to notch up some points for the teams. He said: "The super eights may be underway in the West Indies but the real action is here in Newham!

"As well as keeping active these young people are learning valuable skills in communication and teamwork."

The Newham 'super eights' saw Forest Gate School (Australia). Stratford School (Bangladesh), Langdon School (England), Kingsford Community School (Ireland), Lister School (New Zealand), Eastlea School (Sri Lanka), Royal Docks Community School (South Africa) and Little Ilford School (West Indies) battle against each other for the title of Newham's top cricket team. The players wore coloured shirts to signify the country they represented.



Lister School received a trophy and £100 to spend on cricket equipment. Runner up Langdon School was awarded £50 of cricket equipment. All participants were presented with medals and goodie bags.

The tournament was run by community sports coaches to encourage young people to sign up to Newham Cricket Club.

The East London Business Alliance arranged for staff from investment banking group Morgan Stanley to volunteer their services at the tournament.

To find out more about Newham Cricket Club call Debbie Keast on 020 8548 8878.







### Ravi Bopara

Young cricketers need look no further than Newham's very own Ravi Bopara for inspiration.

England may not have won the Cricket World Cup, which took place last month, but the 21-year-old member of the national team proved himself to be a star of the future.

The Essex batsman went to Brampton Primary School in East Ham and is proud to be associated with Newham.

Look out for more from Ravi in future Newham Mags.



Calling all Newham residents and organisations! Grants of up to £2,012 are on offer to bring your good ideas to life to build a community fit to host the 2012 Games.

The Go for it Grants programme has already funded more than 100 great ideas that have made a real difference in our borough. Here are just a few examples of our many success stories:

New City Parent Teacher
Association Saturday Morning
Family Cycling Club offers
people of all ages and abilities a
chance to have a go at cycling
by borrowing bikes in a safe and
supervised environment.

### St. John's Community Centre International dance events

provide tasters of different styles of dancing. The project brings together people from different cultural backgrounds to share their common love and interest in dancing.

### **The Newham Green Gym**

enables local residents to carry out nature conservation activities at East Ham Nature Reserve, improving their health as well as the local environment.

If you've got a good idea to improve your community, we can help make it happen with a Go for it Grant.

### **60 FOR IT GRANTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### Can I apply?

Yes, as long as you're a Newham resident and have at least two others supporting your idea and sharing responsibility.

### How much can I apply for?

A maximum of £2,012.

### Is my project suitable?

If it brings local people across diverse communities together for shared activities that will help make Newham a better place to live.

### How long will it take?

Your application will be considered and you will be notified of the outcome within six weeks. Applications for £500 or less will normally be assessed within 15 working days.

### What happens next?

A council officer may contact you for further information. Projects approved will be sent a formal offer of the grant with details of any additional conditions of grant aid and the release of funding will be processed in line with these. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified in writing.

## If my application is successful will my grant be paid in one payment?

Depending on the amount, your grant will either be paid as a single payment or in two parts. Grants of more than £500 will always be made in two instalments.

### Can a grant be paid into my personal bank account?

No, the council cannot make grant payments to individuals.

### **NEED FURTHER INFORMATION?**

Take the first step in applying for a Go for it Grant by downloading an application form and guidance notes at **www.newham.com/2012Games** 

If you still need further information or help completing your application form, we are only a phone call away on 020 8430 2433. Alternatively you can email **goforit@newham.gov.uk** 

# NHS It would never happen to me

Nora Worpole from Stratford woke up one morning in July 2002 to the biggest shock of her life. Here the 61 year old tells The Newham Mag her story to encourage women to have breast screenings.

"It was about 2am when I woke around myself to keep warm I felt a lump under my armpit. Cancer?

"I didn't attend screening appointments as I felt that I didn't need to. I was a fit and healthy 56 year old. I was so worried I decided to tell my doctor the following day.

"I had a mammogram and the consultant told me I had third stage breast cancer and needed an urgent operation"

"He arranged for further tests." I had a mammogram and the consultant told me I had third stage breast cancer and needed an urgent operation.

"The cancer had been in my body for two years. The strangest thing was that I didn't notice the lump before.

"I wouldn't want anybody to go through what I have when all it would take is a screening appointment. Go and have a mammogram, it doesn't hurt."

"Two weeks later I had an operation at Newham General Hospital to remove my left breast. I was so scared but it was a success. I had chemotherapy and lost all my hair and had to wear a wig. I also had further operations to reconstruct my breast. It was difficult for my family, because we don't talk about our health

Five years on, Nora is free from cancer. With help and support from Cancer You Are Not Alone (CYANA), she is coming to terms with her experience.

She says: "I wouldn't want anybody to go through what I have when all it would take is a screening appointment. Go and have a mammogram, it doesn't hurt."



The NHS would like to thank Mrs Worpole for sharing her story

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### **NEWHAM SERVICES FORUM**

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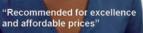
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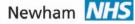


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Primary Care Trust

### **Board Meeting**

2 p.m on Tuesday 15th May 2007 in: The Conference Rooms, Warehouse K, Western Gateway, Royal Victoria Dock, London E16 1DR.

### All members of the public are welcome to attend

Discussion at the meeting will include the trust's Budget for 2007-8. If you are interested in this or other health-related topics, please come and join us.

Meeting room is accessible to disabled people.

Bus Routes: 147, 241, 325 (alight at Custom House/Freemasons Road) Docklands Light Railway: Custom House (2 minute walk)

For more information about the meeting, or to request sign language interpreters or large print papers, call:

The Communications Team at Newham PCT

on 020 8586 6329





# News from UEL

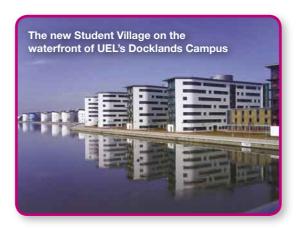
### WHAT'S GOING ON...

All welcome to Open Day
The next UEL Open Day will
take place at our Docklands
and Stratford campuses from
11am-to-4pm on Saturday 16
June. Visitors will be able to enjoy
guided tours of the campuses,
talk to staff and students
about the hundreds of degree
programmes on offer, and pick
up advice and guidance on all
aspects of university life. Book
your place today at
www.uel.ac.uk/openday



Aap Urdu baat karte hai? Celebrating linguistic difference in multicultural Britain is the theme of Professor Peter Martin's inaugural public lecture at UEL's Stratford Campus on Tuesday 22 May. Prof Martin, Senior Lecturer in English and Linguistics, is currently conducting a major research project into the social, cultural and linguistic significance of complementary schools. For further details, visit www.uel.ac.uk/lectureseries

### **New Student Village opens**



Students joining UEL this summer can look forward to living in some of the smartest residences in East London, with stunning views across the Royal Docks and the River Thames.

The new Student Village on the waterfront of UEL's Docklands Campus has places for 788 students in shared flats or self-contained studio rooms, each featuring ensuite facilities and internet access.

### Tune in to Radio UEL!

A brand new digital radio station created, presented and directed by UEL students, is now available online at www.vtm-online.co.uk.

UEL Radio is streamed across the globe via Voicing the Truth Media (VTM), a multimedia company



created by Stratford resident Jody Turay, 26, with the support of Knowledge Dock, UEL's enterprise development and support service.

"The launch of UEL Radio is the culmination of a lot of hard work and the fulfilment of a personal dream," said Jody. "The new station offers great opportunities for students to gain valuable experience of working in radio; their enthusiasm, talent and passion for music will definitely shine through in our shows."

### Don't you believe it!

If you thought that King Alfred burnt the cakes, Jesus had a beard or sandwiches were invented by the Earl of Sandwich... you might be in for a few surprises.

Don't You Believe It! Some things everybody knows that actually ain't so, a new book by John Radford, Emeritus Professor of Psychology at UEL, entertainingly debunks more than 50 popular cultural myths and uncovers the fascinating facts behind the legends.

The book will soon be available online from www.amnestyshop. org.uk and www.secularism.org.uk, with all proceeds going to Amnesty International and the National Secular Society.

UEL is rated among the leading modern (post-1992) universities in the UK according to the Guardian University Guide. For details of all programmes and to receive a copy of our new prospectus, contact 020 8223 3333 or visit www.uel.ac.uk

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# FLYING THE FLAG FOR ST GEORGE

Newham embraced the English patron saint's day with plans to make St George's Day an even bigger celebration in the future.

Mayor Sir Robin Wales and Deputy Mayor Councillor Christine Bowden were on hand to raise the red and white flag at Newham Town Hall in East Ham on 23 April.

Joining them on the steps were Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Newham Colonel Mike Dudding, Canon the Rev Ann Easter and freemen of the borough Irene Poole and Khizr-E-Azam.

Members of the borough's branches of the Royal British Legion and the Royal Naval Association were also invited.

Sir Robin said: "We have always flown the

flag to mark St George's Day but this year we also decided to have a more formal flag-raising ceremony that people could come and take part in and then join us for a cup of tea afterwards. Next year we hope to make it an even bigger event."

Around 150 people turned out to the St George's Day tea dance at the town hall that evening. The council arranged for the main hall to be decked out in England's national colours.

Dancers wore red and white for the special occasion. Doreen, from East Ham, won a bottle of champagne for having the best outfit.

Sir Robin said: "Tea dances are so popular that we will now be holding one every year in the Town Hall on St George's Day. What's more we will be holding them throughout the year here."



Col Dudding addresses the crowd at the flag-raising

The St George's flag and the Union Flag were both seen flying



Sir Robin got into the patriotic spirit by having a dance



Young and old enjoyed the tea dancing



# **COMMUNITY FORUMS**



### STRATFORD & WEST HAM

### **REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES**

Newham people turned out in droves to celebrate the borough's Eastern European groups at an event hosted by Stratford & West Ham Community Forum on Saturday 21 April.

More than 500 people enjoyed a lively afternoon of cultural entertainment and mixing and mingling.

Newham's Mayor, Sir Robin Wales, says: "This was an important opportunity to help Eastern European communities make Newham their home. It was wonderful to see people of all backgrounds come together to learn more about one of the borough's newest communities.

"The performances were outstanding and the atmosphere was vibrant."

The showcase of music and dance featured items from Albanian, Lithuanian, Roma and Russian groups.

Some people learnt a few moves for themselves after taking part in a Balkan dance workshop.

The event also featured information about a range of Newham services including smoking cessation, the Roma Support Group, family planning, housing advice, health support groups and more.

Everything was capped off with free food and refreshments with an Eastern European flavour.

Albanian-born dance teacher Nensi Bego teaches Balkan dance classes in Newham.





She says: "It was an upbeat event and fantastic to bring some awareness to the Eastern European community – for us to get to know each other and to share our identity with others. Newham is a busy borough and it was very useful to get information about different services here."

To find out more about Nensi's classes, call her on 07737 961 117.

Newham's Mayor Sir Robin Wales is joined by Executive Adviser for Community Forums Councillor Richard Crawford, Chair of the Eastern European Forum Elena Vinokourova, Councillor Freda Bourne, Councillor Neil Wilson and members of the Eastern European community at the Stratford & West Ham Community Forum event.

# WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FORUM, WHICH IS MINE AND HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED? CALL 0800 5194015 TO FIND OUT MORE



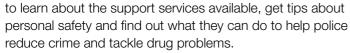
### **ROYAL DOCKS**

### **KICKING CRIME**

More than 250 people concerned about crime put their safety first at two Community Forum 'Feel Safe, Be Safe' events.

The Royal Docks event was on 21 April with Custom House & Canning Town's held the following day.

They were a one-stop-shop for people



Yara Ziera was

glad she went

Canning Town's event was aimed at young people and saw more than 160 take part.

Yara Ziera, 16, says: "I'm really pleased that I went. The police video made me more aware of dangers in the community, like being careful about who you talk to when you're out and about."

Many people wrote their comments about crime and community safety on a graffiti wall, while others picked up their own personal alarm.

Community Lead Councillor for Custom House & Canning Town, Pat Holland, says: "It was excellent to see such strong participation from young people. They understand that we all need to work together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and make our streets safer."



### **GREEN STREET**

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY HITS GREEN STREET

Do you want Green Street to be cleaner and greener? Get involved in the Make a Difference Day – a fun event to combat litter and spruce up the community.

Hit the streets for a few hours and help us with litter picking and recycling.

There'll also be plenty of fun with free activities including a bouncy castle, face painting and health MOTs with Newham Fit Club. Turn up and muck in!

### **Green Street Community Forum Make a Difference Day**

Sunday 6 May, 12noon-4pm Katherine Road Community Centre, 254 Katherine Road, E7 8PN

The Make a Difference Day is in conjunction with **Operation Street Pride**, which was launched in Green Street on 30 April and runs for three weeks.

The operation is aimed at improving shopping streets in the borough by addressing crime and anti-social behaviour and complaints to the council and other enforcement agencies.

It will include a crackdown on illegal activities such as unlawful waste disposal, sale of counterfeit goods, fly-posting, touting and other intimidating or criminal behaviour.



>> Community Forums are for you to have your say about services in our borough and to help us, and you, make positive changes to your neighbourhood. There are nine community forums in Newham working to make each local area a safer, healthier and more interesting place to live.

To find out more call freephone 0800 519 4015, email community.forums@newham.gov.uk or visit www.newham.gov.uk/communityforums

# **COMMUNITY** NEWS



### **INTERNATIONAL BOXING MATCH SHOWCASES NEWHAM**

Newham Leisure Centre hosted the borough's first Amateur Boxing International when England took on Hungary.

Two full international teams, competing over 11 weight categories, were lead into the ring by West Ham boxers Dudley O'Shaughnessy and Billy Morgan. Both have just been accepted into the council's Newham Sports Academy

with Tessa Sanderson.

England ran out winners 9 bouts to 2 in what proved a well supported, entertaining evening of top quality amateur boxing. The event, which was televised by the BBC, showcased the venue and the borough and went a long way to raising the profile of Newham as the borough which is hosting combat sports in the 2012 Games.





### **CUSTOM HOUSE/CANNING TOWN**

### **MULTI-SPORTS EVENT A REAL SUCCESS**



Easter saw young people staying healthy and keeping fit during a two-week multi-sports event organised by council sports coach Abul Hussein in partnership with the Custom House and Canning Town Regeneration Team.

They were invited to take part in activities including football, basketball, hockey and tennis. They were helped along by teenagers who were keen to act as good role models.

The turnout was tremendous over the fortnight with at least 40 young people attending every day.

Councillor Pat Holland, community lead member for Custom House and Canning Town, presented prizes at a basketball tournament at Canning Town Rec.

Afterwards she said: "In the current climate, where gang culture is making the front pages, it is great for them to take part in a positive activity and be supported by older ones who really want to change things."

# GOT A STORY FOR COMMUNITY NEWS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. EMAIL NEWHAM.MAG@NEWHAM.GOV.UK



### **BECKTON**

### **LITHUANIANS KEEN TO BE PART OF WIDER COMMUNITY**

Councillor Ayesha Chowdhury spent an evening at Beckton Community Centre to meet and find out more about the local Lithuanian Christian Community.

The number of Lithuanians in Newham has grown steadily over the years and as a result, the group is offering more activities at the community centre.

More than 100 children attend after-school clubs which offer activities such as dance, music, language, art and history. Their vision is to expand their activities and integrate more into the wider community.

Cllr Chowdhury said: "I applaud what they have achieved so far. However, often the Lithuanian community is seen as quite isolated and separate from the wider community. It is important that they find ways to change this view and build closer links with other groups so that they can play a bigger part in the vibrant, rich life of Newham."





### **PUT THE RIGHT FOOT FORWARD**

Walk your way to cleaner streets by joining a Community Forum walkabout.

Council officers will clear the mess but we need you to help locate the hot-spots for rubbish, fly-tipping and other eyesores like graffiti and abandoned vehicles. Get walking...

### **Plaistow Community Forum Walkabout**

Tuesday 8 May, 6.30-8.30pm

Meet at 6.15pm outside Plaistow Library, North Street, Plaistow. E13 9HL

### **Royal Docks Community Forum Walkabout**

Saturday 5 May, 10am-12 noon

Meet at 9.45am at the Community Forum noticeboard, Pier Parade, Pier Road, North Woolwich, E16 2LJ

### **Manor Park Community Forum Walkabout**

Saturday 19 May, 10am-12 noon

Meet at 9.45 outside the Little Ilford Community Centre, 1a Rectory Road, Manor Park, E12 ELG

### **Forest Gate Community Forum Walkabout**

Saturday 12 May, 10am-12noon

Meet at 9.45am outside Chatsworth Community Centre, Chatsworth Road, Forest Gate, E15 1SP



### STRATFORD & WEST HAM

### STRATFORD COUNCILLORS ACTING UP!

Theatre Royal Stratford East has been nurturing new talent for more than 50 years.

Earlier this month, Stratford and New Town Councillors Richard Crawford and Regina Williams joined its youth theatre group for a rehearsal. The group, co-ordinated by Jan Sharkey-Dodds and apprentice Yasmin Lacey-Phillips, are aged between 11 and 14 and hail from all over Newham and beyond.

The young thespians were full of questions for the councillors. They were quizzed about homelessness, job opportunities, crime and the Olympics.

Councillor
Crawford said:
"Youth theatre
provides an
excellent
opportunity for
young people to
develop the skills to
express themselves
in a productive and
meaningful way."





PLEASE SEND YOUR DRAWINGS, JOKES AND POEMS TO:

KIDS' CORNER, NEWHAM TOWN HALL, EAST HAM E6 2RP

# Gallery



Zeba Sheikh



Ruhana Akthar, 11



Hapilan Sukumar, 8



Chymaya White, 6

Which by Farhana Uddin, 8

Which cereal do I like to eat?
Which pair of socks warms my feet?
Which way do I go to school every day?
Which lessons do I have today?

Which one of these books is mine? Which pen do I use to be fine?

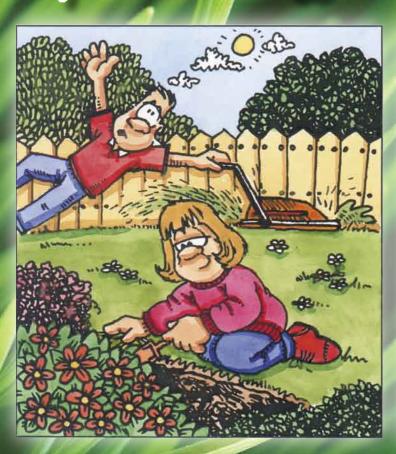
Which lunch would I like to choose? Which game did I just lose?

Which way is it back to my home? Which city am I in, London or Rome? Which colour are the clouds in the sky? Which type of forgetful girl am I?



# opol the difference

How observant are you? Look closely at the picture on the left, then study the picture on the right to find ten differences.







Thames Barrier Park is open from 7am-7.30pm The Prime Coffee Shop is open from 10am daily

Sponsored by Thames Barrier Park, North Woolwich Road, London E16 www.thamesbarrierpark.org.uk



Answers: Sun changes colour, extra part of the hedge, trowel is missing, woman's collar is different colour, extra nail in fence, extra cloud in the lawn.

The sky, man's mouth is different, man's jumper hasn't got a stripe, grass coming out of the lawn mower is missing, extra flowers on the lawn.

# Head for...

### Fun at North Woolwich **Old Station Museum**

- () Every Saturday and Sunday, 1-5pm. Free admission
- >> North Woolwich Old Station Museum, Pier Road, North Woolwich E16 2JJ 020 7474 7244

### Free Newham **Gold Card Activities**

Some venues may be subject to change. Please call Newham Council on 020 8430 2484 prior to attending.

### **Basketball Every Wednesday**

- **O** 5-7.30pm: 8-19 years
- >> New Beckton Park, Savage Gardens, Beckton E6

### **Dance - Urban Street Vibes** Monday 7 May

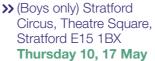
- (§ 3.30-5pm: 11-13 years
- >> Shipman Community Centre, Prince Regent Lane, Custom House E16 3JH

### **Every Tuesday**

- **(**) 6.30-8pm: 11-15 years
- >> Priory Park, 106 Parr Road, East Ham E6 1QJ
- ① 7-8.30pm: 11-13 years
- >> Hartley Community Centre, Barking Road E6 1LB Wednesday 9, 16 May
- **O** 6.30-8pm: 11-15 years
- >> Priory Park, Grangewood Street, East Ham E6

### **Thursday 10 May**





**○**7-8.30pm: 11-16 years

>> St John's Community Centre, Albert Road. E16 2JB

### **Fencing**

### **Thursday 10 May**

- **O**6-8.30pm: 7-17 years
- >> Kingsford Community School, Kingsford Way, Beckton E6 5JG Saturday 12, 18 May
- () 10am-12noon: 8-18 years
- >> Cumberland School. Woodside Road, off Prince Regent Lane, E16 4DD

### Libraries activities for young people

### **Homework Club**

Homework support and advice for young people aged seven to 14. School term only.

- >> Beckton
- (S) Every Tuesday 4-6pm
- >> Canning Town
- © Every Saturday 10am-12noon
- >> Custom House
- © Every Saturday 10am-12noon
- >> East Ham
- © Every Monday 4-6pm
- >> The Gate
- O Every Thursday 4-6pm
- >> Green Street
- © Every Tuesday 4-6pm
- >> Manor Park
- O Every Saturday 10am-12noon









# May 5 - June 2

### >> North Woolwich

- © Every Thursday 3.30-5.30pm
- >> Plaistow
- © Every Thursday 4-6pm
- >> Stratford
- © Every Monday 4-6pm

### Deaf Children's **Homework Club**

Homework support and advice for young people aged five to 12 with hearing impairment. The sessions are supported by a BSL signer.

### >> The Gate

O Saturday 19 May and Saturday 2 June, 10am-12noon

### **Congolese Women's Association Saturday School**

This is a children's French speaking group.

### >> The Gate

© Every Saturday 1-4pm

### Children's Games Club

Board games and activities for children aged five to 12.

### >> Canning Town

© Every Thursday 4-6pm This will not run on 7 June

### **Games Club**

PS2 and Xbox games, music, board games and many more activities for young people aged eight to 13.

### >> Custom House

- O Every Tuesday 3.30-5.30pm
- >> East Ham
- O Every Tuesday 3.30-5.30pm
- >> Manor Park
- © Every Thursday 4-6pm





### **Teenage Games Club**

PS2 and Xbox games, music, board games and many more activities for young people aged 12 to 16.

### >> Beckton

© Every Monday and Wednesday 3-5pm

### Family Reading Group

A chance for children aged five to 11 and their families to read together and have fun.

### >> The Gate

O Sunday 6 May and Sunday 3 June 2.30-4pm

### Children's Reading Group

Explore the pleasure of reading in a family-friendly environment.

### >> Canning Town

Thursday 7 June 4.30-5.30pm

### **Teen Xtra Evenings**

Free activities for young people aged 12 to 21.

### >> The Gate

O Every Friday, 6-8pm

# BANK HOLIDAY

Revised refuse and recycling collection dates for residential and commercial users.



REVISED REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY 2007

NORMAL DAY OF COLLECTION	REVISED DAY OF COLLECTION	
Monday May 7 (Public Holiday)	Tuesday May 8	
Tuesday May 8	Wednesday May 9	
Wednesday May 9	Thurdsday May 10	
Thursday May 10	Friday May 11	
Friday May 11	Saturday May 12	
Normal collection resumes Monday May 14		

### REVISED REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE LATE SPRING BANK HOLIDAY 2007

NORMAL DAY OF COLLECTION	REVISED DAY OF COLLECTION
Monday May 28 (Public Holiday)	Tuesday May 29
Tuesday May 29	Wednesday May 30
Wednesday May 30	Thursday May 31
Thursday May 31	Friday June 1
Friday June 1	Saturday June 2
Normal collection resumes Monday Jun	e 4

### Your orange bag and local recycling banks - making recycling easier

The Mayday break usually signals a few months of great sunshine along with the resplendent colours of spring, but for many orange is now an all year colour in Newham. The sight of orange bags on recycling collection days is the weekly norm on our streets, and the Recycling Team would like to thank all Newham residents who participate.

Recycling is easy for residents who receive the Orange Bag service which can be used for the following materials:

- All food & drinks cans
- Newpapers & magazines, catalogues & directories (but not Yellow Pages)
- Plastic milk, drinks & detergent bottles

For safety reasons it is not possible to use your orange bag for glass, but there are now over 150 recycling banks in Newham which accept all glass bottles and jars. You do not even need to sort them by colour because we are not fussy. Our banks will take any shape or colour green, brown, white or even blue; pickle or jam jars, wine or olive oil bottles. To find your nearest bank visit www.recycleforlondon.com and enter your postcode in the locator box.

### **ARE YOU A FAB RECYCLER?**

Do you do it at home? Maybe you even rally your friends and colleagues to get them involved. Or possibly you recycle less than you would like to. If you have a recycling tale, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Vince Vas, Campaign Manager, London Borough of Newham, Communications Team, Old Technical College, Room 10, Barking Road, London E6 2RP. Email vincent.vas@newham.gov.uk

Need more information on recycling in Newham? It's easy. Just call 020 8430 2000

Email recycling@newham.gov.uk Visit www.newham.gov.uk/services/recycling

# Compost for FREE at the RRC!



Visit Jenkins Lane Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) for a special promotion event to launch the sale of peat-free organic compost.

Bring you green waste on the day and you could be one of the lucky visitors to recieve a free bag of compost or other recycled goodies!

Jenkins Lane RRC Jenkins Lane, Beckton IG11 OAD Friday 11 May 2007 10am - 3pm **Sunday 13 May 2007** 

<u> 2pm -</u>

For further information, London on 0800 389 9918



YOUR RURRISH

For all enquiries on recycling and FREE green garden rubbish collection

020 8430 2000 Recycling@newham.gov.uk www.newham.gov.uk/services/recycling



5pm